GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:836
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004
CONSERVATION OF HIMALAYAN FOREST RESOURCES
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes for conservation of Himalayan Forest resources;

(b) the action being taken by the Government to check the problems of soil erosion of forest land, decreasing of forest cover, landsliding etc., in the Himalayan region; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to make people of Himalayan region aware in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing three major schemes, namely National Natural Resource Management Scheme (NNRMS), support to G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED), and Integrated Eco-development Research Programme (IERP). The National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme of the Ministry also provides financial support to Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) in the country for participatory development of forest resources under the framework of Joint Forest Management (JFM). As on 15.11.2004, 185 FDA projects have been operationalised in 11 Himalayan States under the NAP Scheme to treat an area of 2.60 lakh hectares at a total cost of Rs.404.47 crores.

(b) Research on aspects of soil erosion of forestland, decreasing of forest cover, and landslides are amongst the Research and Development (R&D) priorities of GBPIHED. Similarly, landslide risk assessment in Darjeeling Himalayas, Environmental Hazard Zonation in Alaknanda Valley in Garhwal Himalayas, Analysis of Forest cover and Land Use Dynamics in the Upper Catchment of Manipur river using remote sensing and GIS are being undertaken under the National Natural Resource Management Scheme (NNRMS). Under the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme, expenditure up to 15% of the plantation component of the FDA projects is permitted for soil and moisture conservation.

(c) The G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development undertakes knowledge dissemination of the relevant Research & Development activities by organizing on-site training programmes, conferences, workshops, meetings, awareness camps, etc.